



U.S. Department of Justice
United States Attorney
District of Kansas

NEWS RELEASE

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May 5, 2004

LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, MAN SENTENCED FOR GUN AND DRUG CHARGES

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Lovert M. Alexander, 20, Leavenworth, Kansas, was sentenced on May 3, 2004, by U.S. District Judge G. Thomas VanBebber to fifteen years and one month in federal prison, without parole, to be followed by eight years of supervised release.**

Melgren said that Alexander entered a guilty plea on January 26, 2004, to one count of possessing a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime and one count of possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine within 1,000 feet of an elementary school.

Melgren stated that Alexander admitted at his plea that on July 15, 2003, he was stopped by a Leavenworth Police Department officer within 1,000 feet of Lawson Elementary School for driving with a suspended license. Alexander further admitted that when the officer approached his vehicle, the officer saw marijuana and a handgun in plain view. Alexander also admitted that the officer searched his vehicle and found approximately 35.36 grams (approximately 1.25 ounces) of crack cocaine, marijuana, a loaded pistol, and \$1,400 in cash. Alexander admitted that a portion of the crack cocaine had been packaged in 45 individually wrapped baggies. Alexander admitted that he intended to distribute the crack cocaine and possessed the firearm for protection.

Melgren commended the excellent work of the Leavenworth Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in this investigation and Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead in this prosecution.